

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 15, 2015

Agenda Item: Paddlefish Roe and Advisory Committee Authorizations

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Minutes

Background

Montana statute MCA 87-4-601 allows anglers to donate paddlefish eggs to a Montana nonprofit corporation to process, market, and sell as caviar. Eggs must be from paddlefish harvested legally from the Yellowstone River between Glendive and the North Dakota state line. In 1990, the Commission designated the Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (Chamber) the responsible nonprofit corporation, and FWP has asked that this agreement be renewed each subsequent year since. Thirty percent of the caviar profits (in excess of processing and marketing costs) go to FWP to benefit paddlefish management. The remainder of profit goes to the Chamber to cover administrative costs and to fund the paddlefish grant program which finances historical, cultural, and recreational projects. MCA 87-4-601 requires the Commission to appoint an advisory committee, called the Paddlefish Grant Committee (PGC), to solicit and review grant applications and to fund these various projects. By statute, the PGC must consist of one member of the nonprofit organization, two area local government representatives, and two representatives of area anglers. The committee is required to notify the Commission of its actions.

The Chamber recommends that the Commission appoint the following individuals to the 2015 Paddlefish Grant Committee:

- Mike Roe—Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
- Kevin Dorwart—City of Glendive Director of Operations
- Tim Mort—West Glendive Fire Department chief and Dawson County fire warden
- Kevin McGovern—Reynolds Warehouse Grocery meat cutter in Glendive
- James Thielman—Thielman Oil Productions Services, Inc. in Glendive

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public involvement consists of presenting this recommendation at the April 15, 2015 Commission meeting.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission could revoke the permit if the Chamber has violated the permit conditions or is unable to continue administering the program. The Commission could ask for a new list of potential grant committee members. Either of these decisions would delay implementation of the program in 2015.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

The Department is prepared to extend the Chamber's permit for 2015. The Department recommends that the Commission approve the advisory committee recommended by the Chamber.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve the advisory committee members recommended by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce.